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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/687,348

10/12/2000

Ramesh Nagarajan

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06/01/2004

LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.

DOCKET ADMINISTRATOR

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HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

EXAMINER

LEE, CHI HO A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2663

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/687,348

Applicant(s)

NAGARAJAN ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Lee

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re Claim 3, it is unclear what is meant that the "two diverse communication paths used for replicating and multi-selecting are the same". The "two diverse paths" are just physical channels and does not function to replicate or multi-select.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-19, 21-23, 25-33, 35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al U.S. Patent Number 6,271,946.

Re Claims 1, 7, 13, 26, fig. 10 (a node) teaches replicating packets from IP source 1010 at IP Packet Multiplexer 1020 (dual feeding) to be outputted to links 1 and 2 (two diverse communication paths; multiple copies; disjointed);

fig. 12 (an other node) teaches the IP selector 1220 (dual selecting) for selecting a packet from the input links (See col. 17, lines 23 ~ col. 19, lines 1-5).

Re Claims 2, 8, 14, 31, refer to Claim 1, wherein the packet is a signaling header packet (See col. 11, lines 38-50).

Re Claim 3, refer to Claim 1, wherein the links and IP packets between fig. 10 and fig. 12 are the same.

Re Claims 4, 12, 21, 25, 32, refer to Claim 1, wherein 1020 receives IP packets.

Re Claims 5, 33, refer to Claim 1, wherein the IP packets are identical (packet identifier).

Re Claims 9, 18, 22, 26, 27, refer to Claim 1, wherein the transport network is a WDN network.

Re Claims 10, 15, 23, 37, refer to Claims 1, 2, wherein the IP packet inherently has an sequence number to be replicated by 1020.

Re Claims 16, 17, 19, 35, refer to Claim 1, wherein fig. 12, Buffer & Re-sequencer 1230 receives the sequence number of copied IP packets and functions to discard and accepting for outputting proper sequence of IP packets.

Re Claim 30, refer to Claim 1, fig. 10 inherently includes a memory for storing a routing table to enable reception of IP packets from IP sources; fig. 10 further includes OLSAS system controller 1080 (a processor)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2663

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 34, 36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al U.S. Patent Number 6,271,946 in view of O'Connor U.S. Patent Number 6,356,544.

Re Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 34, 36 and 38, '946 fails to teach the replicated packet conveys an identical packet identifier in an additional shim header of a MPLS packet. However, '544 teaches that the benefit of using MPLS label switched paths can be merged to form multipoint to point trees. This reduces the amount of state information that must be maintained by the network. Hence, one skilled in the art would have been motivated by '544 to modify '946 to include the MPLS shim header for such benefit.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-1500. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2663

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AI

5/26/04

ANDY LEE
PATENT EXAMINER